

Master's Thesis Prize 2021
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Leiden University

Jury Report

The Faculty Board of Social and Behavioural Sciences has requested the Institutes of Education and Child Studies, Political Science, Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, and Psychology to nominate their top-rated master's theses for the 2021 Faculty Research Master's Thesis Prize.

The jury consisted of Sanne de Vet (PhD candidate Education and Child Studies), Rick van Well (PhD candidate Political Science), Tomás Dodds Rojas (PhD candidate Cultural Anthropology), Laura Hoenig (PhD candidate Psychology), Rose Bieszczad (PhD candidate Centre for Science and Technology Studies) and Kees Verduin (chairman, Instructor Methodology and Statistics). In order to ensure a thorough and uniform assessment, the Faculty Board had provided the jury with a list of four evaluation criteria. Each thesis was to be evaluated on the basis of scientific quality, creativity in terms of research design and approach, relevance and readability. Needless to say, due to the high quality of the four nominations, the jury faced a very difficult task in choosing just one thesis for the prize.

The members of the jury read and evaluated the nominated theses thoroughly. The jury was pleased to note that the four nominations were of high scientific quality and social relevance, while at the same time they were very different in terms of design and research methods. After a constructive and lively discussion of the arguments underlying the individual ratings of the members of the jury, an unanimously decision was taken in favor of the thesis nominated by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology.

The award-winning thesis, which was supervised by Prof. dr. Peter Pels, is entitled:

“Interpreting Culture through Embodied Practice: An anthropological study of sexuality among Dutch Women with Turkish Migrant backgrounds”

by Simay Çetin

Pagina-einde

With his thesis Simay Çetin makes an important contribution not only to the field of Cultural Anthropology, but to qualitative social sciences in general. At first, the jury members were slightly puzzled by the qualitative approach (at least those with a quantitative background) only to become enchanted by the fluent and logical narrative structure of the thesis, in which Simay Çetin shaped her thoughts about her research and her main research question.

A process that we as readers were able to witness. As such we became fellow travelers guided by Simay Çetin on her journey.

William James once expressed his sadness about the newly developed experimental approach by 'these new prism, pendulum and chronograph-philosophers. They mean business not chivalry.'¹.

In Simay Çetins thesis we are fortunate to experience, what leaving the laboratory and doing field research can accomplish when executed with a mixture of grace, insight and determination.

Because of this outstanding work the award for the FSW Master Thesis is granted to Simay Çetin.

Leiden, 8 December 2021.

Drs. Kees Verduin

Jury Chair of FSW Thesis Prizes 2021.

¹James, William (1890) Principles of Psychology Dover Edition, Volume II , p.193

Research Master's Thesis Prize 2021
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Leiden University

Jury Report

The Faculty Board of Social and Behavioural Sciences has requested the Institutes of Education and Child Studies, Political Science and Psychology to nominate their top-rated research master's theses for the 2020 Faculty Research Master's Thesis Prize.

The jury consisted of Sanne de Vet (PhD candidate Education and Child Studies), Rick van Well (PhD candidate Political Science), Tomás Dodds Rojas (PhD candidate Cultural Anthropology), Laura Hoenig (PhD candidate Psychology), Rose Bieszczad (PhD candidate Centre for Science and Technology Studies) and Kees Verduin (chairman, Instructor Methodology and Statistics). In order to ensure a thorough and uniform assessment, the Faculty Board had provided the jury with a list of four evaluation criteria. Each thesis was to be evaluated on the basis of scientific quality, creativity in terms of research design and approach, relevance and readability. Needless to say, due to the high quality of the three nominations, the jury faced a very difficult task in choosing just one thesis for the prize.

The members of the jury have read and evaluated the nominated theses thoroughly. The jury was pleased to note that the two nominations were of high scientific quality and social relevance, while at the same time they were very different in terms of design and research methods. After a constructive and lively discussion of the arguments underlying the individual ratings of the members of the jury, an unanimously decision was taken in favor of the thesis nominated by the Institute of Education and Child Studies.

The award-winning thesis, which was supervised by Dr. A.W. Koornneef, is entitled:

Developing an Academic Vocabulary Test
for the Psychological Sciences

by Silav Zeid

Pagina-einde

The thesis of Silav Zeid is a first rate example of quantitative research covering the whole spectrum from research question to a concrete product i.e. the Academic Vocabulary Test. The way the different phases of the research project are conducted show both the level of skill as well as of insight that was displayed by Silav Zeid in handling the various challenges thrown at her.

The extraction of the words from 75.000 scientific articles to be used in the later phases of research is in itself worthy of praise, as is the use of IRT to determine a smaller and still suitable set of words for the final version of vocabulary test.

Based on these arguments the award for the FSW Research Master's Thesis 2021 is granted to Silav Zeid.

Leiden, 8 December 2021.

Drs. Kees Verduin
Jury Chair of FSW Thesis Prizes 2021.